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# OBSERVER

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Mold keeps Livonia library branch closed

### Alfred Noble building shuttered for over 19 months

**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

About a year and a half after mold first closed the Alfred Noble Library in Livonia, the building still isn't open to the public.

Former Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright closed the facility at 32901 Plymouth Road in October 2019 after mold was found in the building.

Inspectors did not find any traces of black mold, but the penicillium and aspergillus molds found can pose some

health concerns to people who are immunocompromised.

Library Director Toni LaPorte said the problem stems from a leak in the basement.

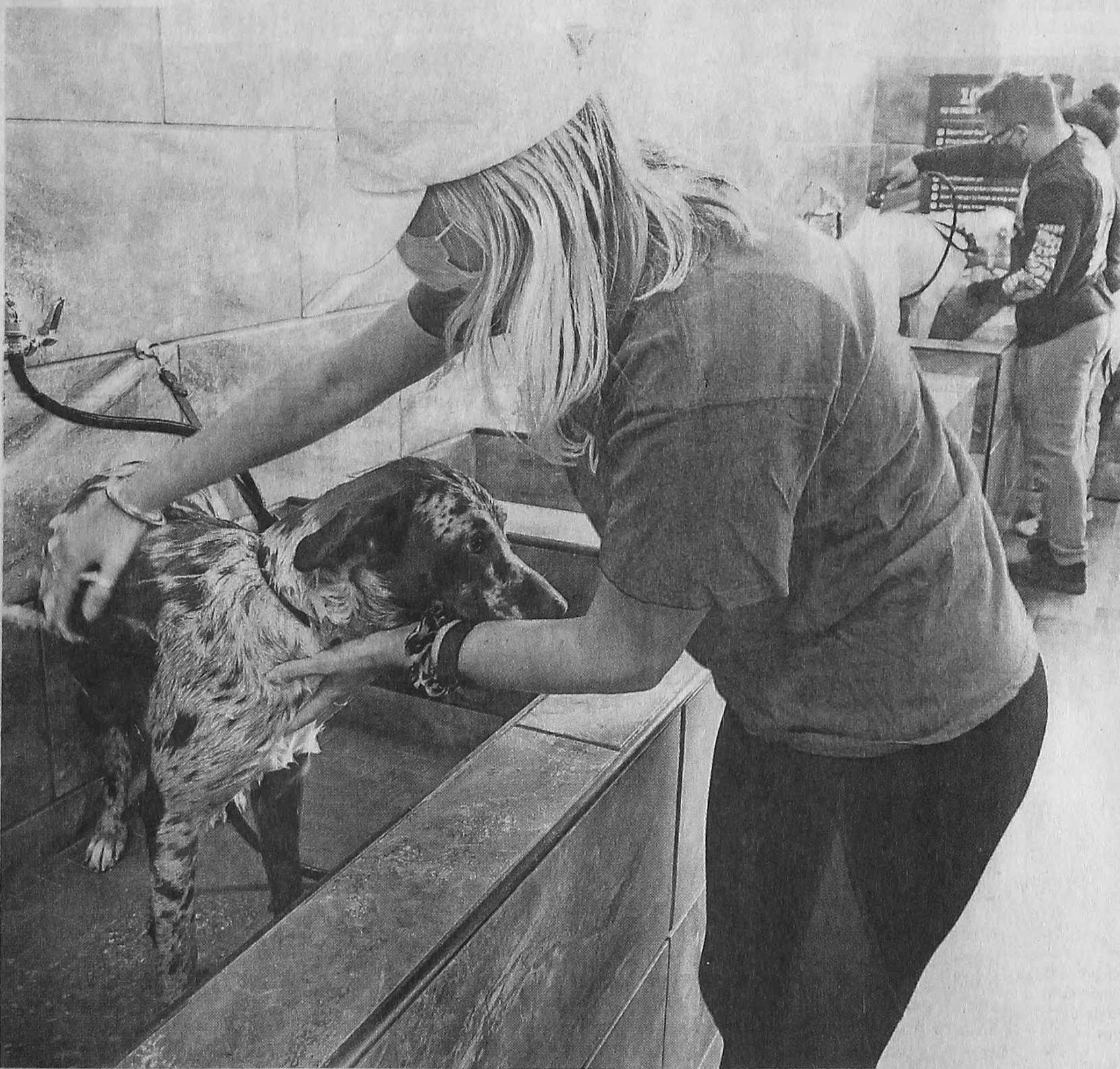
"It's a basement issue that's been a problem for years," she said. "It's probably been since the '80s that we've had this leaking problem in the basement."

The city completed an investigation

of the growth in 2019, but the coronavirus pandemic put any potential solutions for the issue on hold.

LaPorte said the city is revisiting possible solutions and what they may cost. Wright previously said fixing the problem could range anywhere from cleanup to a complete rebuild of the facility.

See **MOLD**, Page 2A



Pretoria Den-Boer lathers up her dog Hazlenut on May 5 in one of the three self-serve dog washing stations at Family Pet Shop in downtown Farmington. The independent pet supplies shop opened in late April. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Independent pet supplies shop opens in Farmington

**David Veselenak** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Animals have always played a big role in Allie Tolonen's life.

The 20-year-old Farmington resident said she spent time walking dogs with the family when she was growing up, assisting her mother who helped with other peoples' pets. She's also been around horses for many years and recently earned her dog grooming certificate.

"I just feel like my love for animals started at a young age, even though ani-

mals haven't been my job my whole life," she said. "Growing up, we always had random little dogs in our house we were watching.

"I've always been an animal lover." Now, Tolonen is the manager of her family's new pet supplies store and spends six days a week helping customers and their pets.

The Family Pet Shop opened its doors in late April at 23320 Farmington Road in downtown Farmington.

The opening brings a pet supplies store back to downtown Farmington;

the previous store that occupied the space was Pet Valu, which closed all of its stores nationwide late last year.

Angela Tolonen said she envisioned a pet supplies store would fit perfectly in downtown Farmington when her family moved to town from Madison Heights eight years ago.

She was happy to see PetValu come to town and was equally sad when that pet supplies shop had to close its doors.

See **SHOP**, Page 2A

## Plymouth testing app that shows railroad crossing use

**Ed Wright** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Tired of wasting up to 10 minutes of your precious time waiting for the gates to rise at downtown railroad crossings?

Well, there's an app for that — and it is being refined in Plymouth.

The brainchild of Grosse Ile, Michigan-based Integrated Traffic Solutions, the Plymouth Trains app can warn users when a railroad crossing is blocked by a passing train, the time of day or night when there is the best chance for a train to rumble across certain roads and the average wait time at each crossing.

App users can even watch live videos of trains as they motor down the tracks over selected roads, noted Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock.

"Integrated Traffic Solutions came to us and asked if we'd be willing to work with them in developing this app," Sincock said. "Knowing how much people dislike waiting at train crossings, we told them 'absolutely.'"

"It's especially useful for emergency services vehicles when they're headed to an emergency. They can alter the route they take if they know there's going to be a train blocking a certain road. It's a very, very in-depth system they're developing."

Within 24 hours of the launching of the app, 500 people had downloaded it to their smartphones.

The app is in the development stage and is currently only active for the Farmer Street crossing in Plymouth, which has six railroad crossings within city limits.

The free app is available on the Apple App Store. An Android version is in the works.

The city and technology firm are working through infrastructure and technology issues to cover the remaining crossings in the city, Sincock said.

"The Farmer Street crossing was a great location to start testing and collecting data because we were able to connect a camera to the back of a nearby building," Sincock said. "With each train that passes, the computer builds algorithms and adds data."

See **APP**, Page 7A



# Sale of Wilcox Mill in Plymouth moves forward

David Veselenak [hometownlife.com](mailto:hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The full Wayne County Commission will decide on the sale of the Wilcox Mill in Plymouth after its public services committee voted to move the sale forward.

The county commission's committee on public services voted unanimously during its virtual meeting May 11 to advance the sale of the mill at 230 Wilcox in Plymouth to the full commission. If that body approves the sale, closing will take place in the coming months between Wayne County and the buyer, Donofrio Wil Cox, LLC, a company connected with Northville developer Richard Cox.

"When we originally put out the (request for proposal) on the sites, we had four bidders, so we went to the second highest and best offer," said Wafa Dinero, the county's executive director of economic development corporation. "We're looking for the commission to approve the sale of Wilcox Mill to this developer."

The purchase would put all three historic mills in western Wayne County under the development of Cox.

The Phoenix Mill, at 14973 Northville Road in Plymouth Township, was the first sold to Cox and has been under construction as a banquet center and restaurant. Plans for the third mill to be redeveloped, Newburgh Mill at 37401 Hines Drive in Livonia, have not yet been approved.

The proposal came before the commission's public services committee after the previous intended buyer, Plymouth artist Tony Roko, decided to pull out of his planned art center project due to several factors, including the coronavirus pandemic.

## The purchase would put all three historic mills in western Wayne County under development by Donofrio Wil Cox, LLC, a company connected with Northville developer Richard Cox.

The full commission originally approved the sale of both the Newburgh Mill and Wilcox Mill back in November 2019.

The new plans for Wilcox Mill, Dinero said, would include a possible coffee business and other commercial entities. The proposed artist studio Roko pitched would not be included in the plans.

The committee also had an agenda item at its most-recent meeting for the Newburgh Mill sale, though that was moved to a future committee meeting because of questions surrounding the contract. That item was also postponed at a committee meeting in April.

Commissioner Monique McCormick, D-Detroit, asked whether a deposit was placed on the Wilcox Mill when the sale agreement was first made, as well as whether there was one placed on the new agreement.

"It just seems like we've wasted a lot of time and energy and effort, especially on that last deal, and then for them to back out," she said. "I understand the reasons that may have caused them to back out. I don't know if we need to consider that this time around."

No deposit was requested from Roko and none was

asked for regarding the new ownership, said Cheryl Jordan, deputy director of the county's Department of Corporation Counsel.

She said that was because of the environmental challenges at that site.

Commissioner Melissa Daub, D-Canton Township, inquired about a clause in the deal that requires \$1 million to be spent rehabilitating the property. She said the price tag listed in the analysis only showed \$657,000 planned for the site and wanted to make sure there were safeguards in place in case that threshold isn't met.

That contract language, Dinero said, is there more so as an estimation. Costs for construction have increased, she said, and it's not expected to remain under that minimum requirement.

"The developer wanted to be conservative just because of the cost of materials right now," Dinero said. They know they're going to go over the minimal investment."

In addition to those conditions, the same conditions that were required in the original agreement with the county also remain, including requiring the developer to pursue historical designation for the structures, inform the county if they plan to sell the building and more.

The agreement regarding Wilcox Mill is expected to be taken up by the entire county commission at the May 20 meeting, said Commissioner Terry Marecki, R-Livonia.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

## Mold

Continued from Page 1A

LaPorte is hoping to have a clear plan within the next few months. The building's usable books are in storage, and the closure has not resulted in any staff cuts.

In the meantime, the Civic Center and Carl Sandburg libraries remain open to the public five days a week. People can also order books to-go, remotely attend story time, download e-books and take job skills classes through the library's partnership with Brainfuse.

"It's missed by the neighborhood, I'm sure, because it's so close," LaPorte said of the Alfred Noble branch. "But, there's nothing people cannot get at one of our other libraries."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersley@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersley@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby\_tank.

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Store owner Allie Tolonen helps a customer select dog treats May 5 at Family Pet Shop in Farmington.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Shop

Continued from Page 1A

That closure led her to investigate opening a shop. After several months, the Tolonen family signed a lease and began getting things together to reopen the building under their own name. They ordered new shelving and products and opened the dog washing area to bring in customers before the pet supplies area was ready to open.

Angela Tolonen said that allowed the family to connect more quickly with customers and learn their needs.

"I think a lot of people really enjoyed that from PetValu and missed that a lot, so we thought, 'Well, it's ready to go, it doesn't need much in the way of supplies,'" she said. "So we opened that up and that's given us an opportunity to get to know people and ask them what kind of products they're looking for."

The shop has plenty for pet owners who have dogs and cats, from food to feeding bowls, leashes and toys. Angela Tolonen said they're also getting items in stock for small pets like guinea pigs and reptiles.

A newcomer to the pet supplies industry, she said she's experienced nothing but kindness when working with suppliers and other businesses as the family gets their shop off the ground.

"We're finding this business community ... just incredible," Angela Tolonen said. "They're so helpful



The shop sits at 23320 Farmington Road.

and welcoming."

One of those suppliers is Daphne MacKenzie, owner of Livonia-based Hunter's Healthy Treats.

She said she hasn't seen a lot of independent pet supplies shops opening recently, and she was excited at the prospect of displaying her products for sale at the store.

Especially given the tough challenges for small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, MacKenzie said it was a good sign to have a new store open.

"It's very unique that I'm finding that they're opening during the pandemic," she said. "I think it's awesome and I hope she does very well."

Unlike many other businesses, the Tolonens have not had an issue with staffing. Angela Tolonen said they have plenty of part-time associates to assist with running the store, most of them being younger people.

"We are fully staffed. I even have some backups," she said. "We're in pretty good shape."

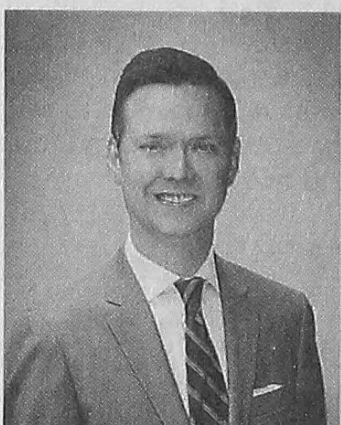
A website for the shop is also coming in the future. For more information, visit the shop's Facebook page.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.



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# Non-profit seeks help to continue autism center

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Northville-based Living and Learning Enrichment Center is proving to be as resilient as the young adults with autism or related challenges it has assisted since 2015.

Through tireless fundraising efforts orchestrated by founder Rachelle Vartanian, the non-profit organization cleared the initial financial hurdles to purchase the 14-acre former Don Massey Estate in Novi when it outgrew its former downtown Northville location.

It has been slowed, but not stopped, by the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced Vartanian to cancel three fundraising events.

The latest obstacle is a May 31 deadline to raise \$150,000 that will allow contractors to make the estate compliant with Americans With Disabilities Act regulations and make the facility operational.

Vartanian, a former special education teacher and the parent of a son who has Asperger's syndrome, said she is so committed to the center that she sold her home, downsized her possessions and borrowed from her retirement account.

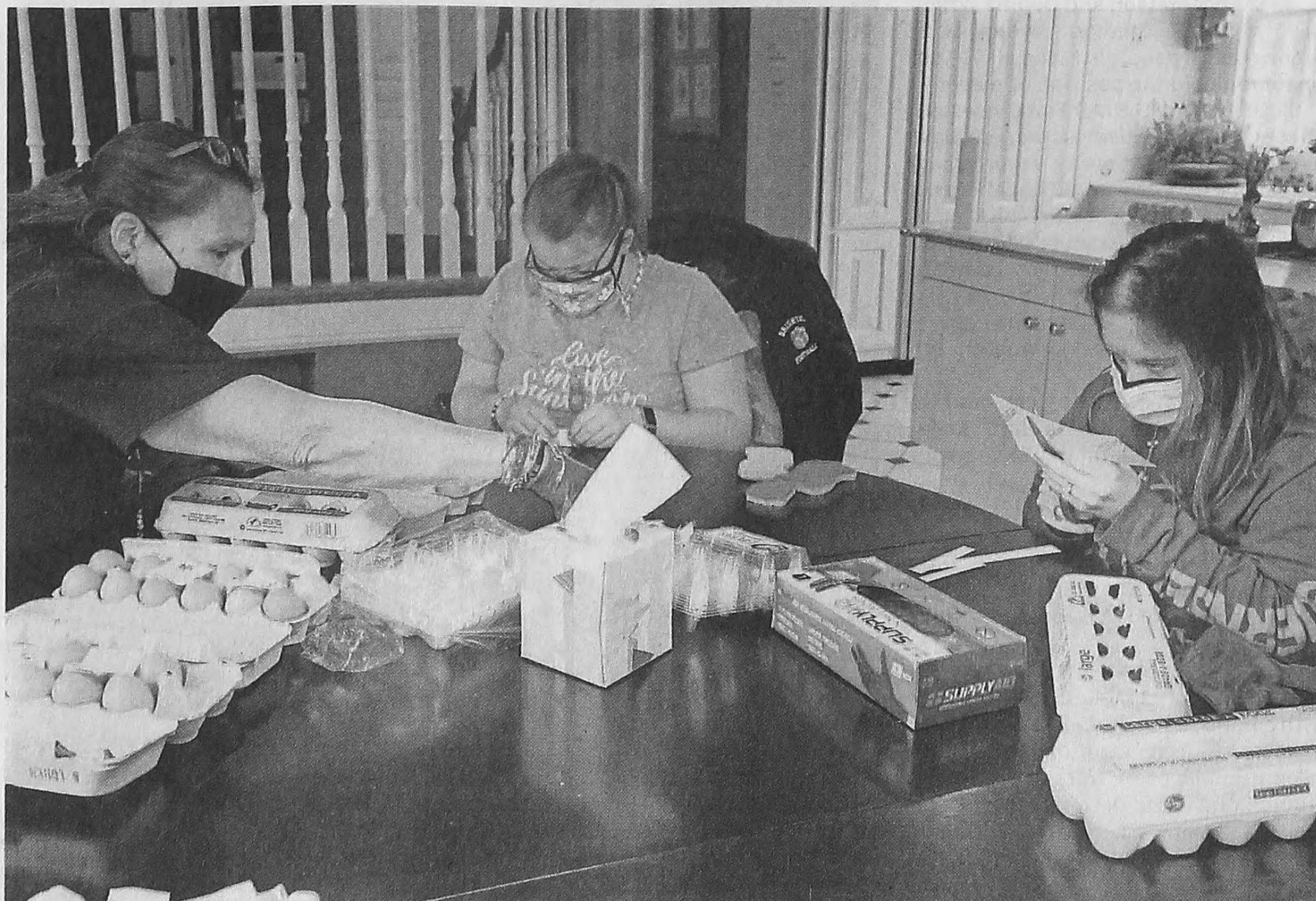
Now, she is asking for donations.

"We're so close," she said. "We got the keys to (the) estate last January ... and then COVID hit. We need the \$150,000 to pay the contractors for the ADA-compliance work by May 31 or they have to move on to other jobs they have scheduled. I am determined to make this happen."

The center is a place of hope for young adults, Vartanian emphasized. It offers not only social support for autistic and similarly challenged people, but job skills training and confidence-building activities — assets that can help them secure a degree of normalcy in their lives.

"Life doesn't get easier for these young adults once their schooling is done," Vartanian said. "This place will give them somewhere to come and learn vital job skills and even work at a market where we sell goods that are produced on the grounds."

Among the more than 25 programs offered at the center are an IT academy/



Living and Learning Enrichment Center worker Mary Anne Cronford, left, works with students Nicole Sawle and Rosemary Jiddou, right, on May 6 labeling cartons of eggs for sale. The center has its own chicken coop and sells the eggs locally.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

cybersecurity training program, an artisan market, summer camps, a lavender farm, alpaca farm, doggie daycare with dog walking and job-skills classes.

Vartanian started the center in 2015 in the Farmington Community Library. The demand for its services increased so rapidly that a move became necessary.

"The unemployment rate for young adults on the autism spectrum is 90% — and that was before COVID. We want to crush that number," Vartanian said.

The 6,253-square-foot Massey estate was built in the 1920s. Don Massey was a world-renowned Cadillac dealer. He died in 2011 at age 83.

"The first time I walked the Massey estate, I knew that's where we had to

be," Vartanian said. "It gives enough room to do micro-businesses, offer programs like recycling pallet-making and grow vegetables and have bee and alpaca farms. It's a perfect fit. This is a place where these young adults and learn how to socialize and build lasting relationships through experience. It's a place where they can learn to live the most independent life possible.

"We're almost there. We're almost in the door. We just need a little more financial support from the community."

Vartanian said donations could lead to naming opportunities at the center. To make a donation, visit the organization's website.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com).



Living and Learning Enrichment Center founder Rachelle Vartanian stops by the center's lavender garden on May 6.



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# Livonia Legacy Awards to honor 2 former mayors

Jack Engebretson and Dennis Wright have a lot in common beyond being among only 11 people in Livonia's 71-year history to hold the position of mayor.

Both men are U.S. Air Force veterans, successful small business owners, have a history of community involvement and will be honored as 2021 recipients of the Livonia Legacy Awards, honoring individuals who accumulated a record of exceptional work and service in the community throughout their careers.

Engebretson was Livonia's mayor from 2004-2007, after serving on city council for six years.

"We just have a great city and so many people contribute to that," Engebretson said. "It is humbling to be recognized like this."

The Eau Claire, Wisconsin, native served in the Air Force for four years. He eventually moved to Washington, D.C., where he worked as a U.S. Capitol police officer and studied at George Washington University.

His career path changed as he learned about emerging technology with computers in the 1960s. He became a software designer, programmer and sales manager. Work eventually brought him to the Detroit area when he took a job with a company that hired him to manage an account for General Motors.

He later created his own computer system and software company, Central Data Systems, based in Farmington Hills, focused on small businesses. He sold the business in 1992 and planned to play more golf. However, community issues got his attention.

In the mid-1980s, plans to construct high-rise buildings in the Seven Mile-Newburgh area moved Engebretson to become a voice against such construction near residential neighborhoods.

Former Mayor Bob Bennett appoint-



The late Chain Sandhu of NYX, left, speaks with former Livonia mayors Jack Kirksey and Jack Engebretson at a Livonia Prayer Breakfast. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

ed Engebretson to the planning commission, where he served for 10 years.

Engebretson later ran for elected office and was elected council president in 1997 and 2001, and was elected mayor in 2003. As mayor, he led a restructuring of the city's public safety agencies designed to keep them strong during an economic recession.

Since leaving elected office, he has been a fixture on the Livonia Brownfield Development Authority Board and grew his involvement in church activities.

Engebretson and his wife, Senie, have called Livonia home for more than 50 years.

"My motto is serve with honor – not for honor," he said. "I never thought my contribution was for myself. I just enjoy the servant role."

Wright was Livonia's mayor from 2016-19, after serving as city treasurer for eight years.

"Being elected mayor was the greatest honor of my life," Wright said. "It gave me another way to help people. I

just like helping people."

Prior to holding elected office, Wright was an active volunteer for the Livonia Junior Athletic League. This involvement led to Wright being selected to serve on the committee that led to the financing and development of the Livonia Community Recreation Center.

He said seeing this effort from conception to reality was the most gratifying work he did.

The Detroit Cooley High School alum served in the Air Force for two years. He worked as a manager and in sales in various retail industries until he opened his own hardware store in 1989. His family operated Wright's Ace Hardware on Five Mile near Middlebelt for 18 years. When people called the store and struggled to explain the problem with an appliance or electrical issue, he would drive to their house and personally take care of the problem.

As the business grew, he worked on various fundraising efforts. While at Livonia City Hall, he helped create the Livonia Kids and Families charity, which provides food and other needs for families of school-age children.

In Wright's first year as mayor, the city learned that a long-term care facility was suddenly shut down by the state and residents were forced to move out. This initially caused a chaotic scene that grabbed media attention. Wright immediately went there and helped police and fire personnel as people were moved out. He helped connect residents with their families and carried boxes to people's vehicles well into the evening.

"Whether I was mayor, treasurer, hardware guy, coach, or neighbor," Wright said, "I tried to treat everyone the same."

Since he left office, Wright retired. He has two grown sons and two grandchildren.

# Lions Club president named Livonia First Citizen

Matt Collins has rarely gone without something to do.

When COVID-19 restrictions ended social gatherings, he learned stressed medical workers didn't have easy access to meals at St. Mary Mercy Hospital with limited cafeteria operations. This made it challenging for them to grab something to eat during a day of treating patients.

The longtime Livonia Lions Club president engaged his contacts at other service clubs and local restaurants to send two meals a day to the hospital to feed the workers. Cash donations from the clubs and in-kind donations from restaurants kept this operation going for about six weeks until the initial pandemic surge eased.

Collins also coordinated a group of volunteers from local service clubs to hand out flowers and candies on Mothers Day to hospital workers heading home after their overnight shift so they had something to give to their moms.

"It gave us a chance to thank them for what they are doing, because they might not have been able to get to a store

to get something for their mothers," Collins said.

Collins has long been known for this type of volunteer leadership, and his career of community service led to his selection as recipient of the 2021 Livonia First Citizen Award, an annual honor given to a Livonia resident for extraordinary community service.

He co-owns Kahsar Sales & Marketing, an Ohio-based company that deals with electronic and electromechanical components for manufacturers. He has been a volunteer in Livonia since shortly after moving here in 1986. A neighbor invited him to a Lions Club meeting and it has been an instrumental part of his life since.

"I went to a Christmas party the Lions put together for multiple-issue handicap children and I was amazed at what they did, how the children reacted, and I wanted to get more involved," Collins said.

Lions International regularly supports children who have special needs, especially those who are visually and hearing impaired.



Longtime Livonia Lions Club President Matt Collins is the recipient of this year's Livonia First Citizen Award. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

The Livonia Lions Club keeps the resources it collects locally. Collins is in line to be the Lions' district governor for the 35 clubs and 850 members in Wayne and Monroe counties next year.

Holli Kerkhof, a member of the Livonia

Lions Club, said she admires Collins' leadership.

"He gets to know people and explores their passion in volunteering," Kerkhof said. "He provides opportunities for them to step up and give in a way that makes sense for them."

In 2012, Collins led collaboration with several Livonia service clubs to network and coordinate their efforts. Since, the Livonia Community Service Forum partners with the Kids Coalition Against Hunger each year for a food packing event that contributed toward distributing 100,000 meals to needy local families.

This collaboration enabled the groups to quickly maneuver when the pandemic took hold last spring.

"The Lions Club opened the door to this community for me to be of service and connect with the community," he said. "I am honored to be recognized like this, but I just enjoy helping people."

Along with his wife, Kathleen, Collins has also volunteered as a coach and Scout leader while the couple's three children were growing up.

# Luxury apartments could come to vacant land in Northville Twp.

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Changes in the office landscape could result in a new place to live on the eastern side of Northville Township.

There had been plans to construct a new office/medical building on the north end of the property near Cantoro Italian Market at 15550 N. Haggerty. But given the current changes in the office work space climate, the owners of the property have proposed a new structure containing luxury apartments instead.

"To the north was a pad that was phase 2 of the (planned unit development) to be developed as an office building. It was a three-story office building. The first floor was going to be dedicated to storage facilities for the Cantoro Market," said Jennifer Frey, Northville Township's planner. "Then it was going to be a mixture of general office and medical office. And that was probably three or four years ago, so obviously a lot has changed relative to the office market during that time."

The plan would include several stories of luxury boutique apartments. The hope is to offer services that would connect residents to the nearby Italian market.

"We're proposing luxury amenities and services and those luxury ameni-



Luxury apartments have been proposed for the vacant lot near Cantoro's in Northville Township. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ties and services take advantage of Cantoro's that's there, the walkability to that," said Mark Abanatha, one of the representatives for the project.

The changes were discussed by representatives of Cantoro's and the Northville Township Planning Commission during its most recent meeting April 27. No action was taken at the meeting. To make those changes, an amendment would be needed to the site's current planned unit development, which was originally approved several years ago. Those changes would formally come

during a site plan review.

"We wanted to meet with the planning commission on an early basis. We wanted to review the project with you ... and get your input, get you involved in the project early on," Abanatha said. "We've spend a tremendous amount of time on this design and we did that for a couple of reasons: One, it's a very important project equally for us as well as the community and we wanted to put our best foot forward in terms of the presentation that you see so you really grab the image and importance of the design we're trying to put forward."

Commissioner Jayne Watson said she thought the materials making up the building aren't inviting.

"I'd love to see it have some more warmth and attention to detail on the materials," she said.

Pivoting the space from an office building to a residential building would benefit the township financially, said Bob Jacobs, another representative for the project. Analysis by the company showed the township could receive as much as \$300,000 more annually in tax revenue for the uniqueness.

Given its uniqueness, the property would attract plenty of people looking for a higher-end lifestyle.

"It is incredible that this could be there and it could be a great, great asset

to the community as well as the owners of the property," Jacobs said. "(There's) nothing that is quite like that is in the surrounding areas. But there is a market for this."

Commissioner Matthew Wilk said it appears such a complex would be similar to another area project: dozens of new, luxury apartments are currently under construction in Livonia.

Those apartments are a part of the mixed-use development between Seven Mile and Eight Mile roads that has seen several restaurants and other businesses open on the Livonia/Northville Township border.

Being new to the commission, Wilk said he would lean on some of the more senior commissioners when it came time to discuss the project more in-depth.

"I think those are going to be very similar projects," he said. "They're touting they're walkable to First Watch and you're touting your walkability to Cantoro's."

"I think as a new commissioner, I think I'll be relying heavily on the opinions of people who were around the first time."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.



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# Obituaries

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## Alan Christopher Carnes

**PLYMOUTH** - Alan Christopher Carnes, age 56, formerly of Plymouth, Michigan passed away on May 8, 2021. He was born in Detroit on January 7, 1965 to his parents, Neil and Lois (née Jacobson) Carnes. He is also survived by his brother, Ken, and his nephew and niece, Will and Kari. He is pre-deceased by his brother, Neil, Jr.; grandparents, George and Beulah Jacobson, Harold and Geraldine Carnes and his Uncles, Ken, Tim and Pat.



Alan graduated from Plymouth-Salem High School in 1983. He loved hockey and was an excellent hockey player at Kent State University as well as a lifelong Detroit Red Wings Hockey fan. He loved the action on the ice as the play could speed up or slowdown in order for the players to control the game. This made it so entertaining to watch either on TV or from the seats in the arena. After being diagnosed with COVID-19 some weeks ago, Alan bravely gave all that he could to conquer his illness, but sadly lost his battle to the virus. He is deeply loved and will be greatly missed by all who know and love him and whose life has been touched by him.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. Visit [www.schrader-howell.com](http://www.schrader-howell.com)

## Richard A. Mastaw

**LIVONIA** - Richard A. Mastaw, age 79, went to be with the Lord on April 29, 2021, at his home in Livonia, Michigan.

Richard was born on May 7, 1941 in Sault Ste. Marie, MI., the son of Alphonse and Agnes Mastaw. After serving his country in the U.S. Navy, he married Judith Barber, started his family, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree and Doctor of Jurisprudence degree. He was a successful attorney, serving in his Redford, MI law practice for over 35 years. He was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Indian Tribe and served as an appellate judge on the tribal court for four years. He was also an avid runner for many years, participating in marathons across the U.S. and had an extraordinary love of travel. More than anything else, Richard was a loving father, grandfather, brother, and friend.

Richard is survived by his daughters Mary Pat Lynch (Scott), Betsy Beil (Mike), his son Rick; grandsons Justin, Michael, and Mark; granddaughters Brianna, Katie, Paige, Hannah, Rhayelyn, and Celsey; great-granddaughter Adaline; great-grandsons Gavin and Gage; brothers Brian, Jerry, and Franklin; sisters Nancy and Elaine; and many nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his companion, Susan Bicknell, and her family. Richard was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Charles, John, Daniel, and William, and sisters Theresa, Geneva, Patricia, Mary Catherine, Carol, and Darlene.

A funeral mass will be held on May 17, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church in Redford, MI. Richard will be buried on May 29, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at Maple Ridge cemetery, Sugar Island, MI. Following the interment, a funeral luncheon will be held at the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribe Cultural Center. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church or Right to Life of Michigan.



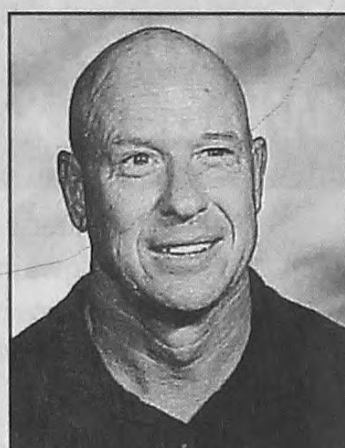
## Larry E. Jenkins

**PLYMOUTH** - Jenkins, Larry E., May 9, 2021 age 82 of Plymouth. Beloved husband of the late Martha and the late Jane. Loving father of Yvonne Lockard, Kim Odien, Charlene (Tom) Allen, Kristie (Jeff) Cruse, and the late Dale Jenkins. Proud grandpa of 14 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Dear brother of Wilda Kretzchmar, and Trent Jenkins. Visitation Wednesday, May 12th 2-9 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West, (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In state Thursday, May 13th 10:30 AM until the 11 AM Funeral Service at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road West, Plymouth. Interment Glen Eden Memorial Park. Memorial contributions may be made to the Huron Valley Humane Society. To share a memory, please visit [vermeulenh.com](http://vermeulenh.com)



## Arthur "Hooker" Wellman

**PLYMOUTH/LUDINGTON** - Arthur "Hooker" Wellman, age 68 of Plymouth/Ludington passed away on April 28, 2021. He was born on April 12, 1953 at Sessions Hospital in Northville, Michigan to his parents, James and Dolores. He is pre-deceased by his father, James.

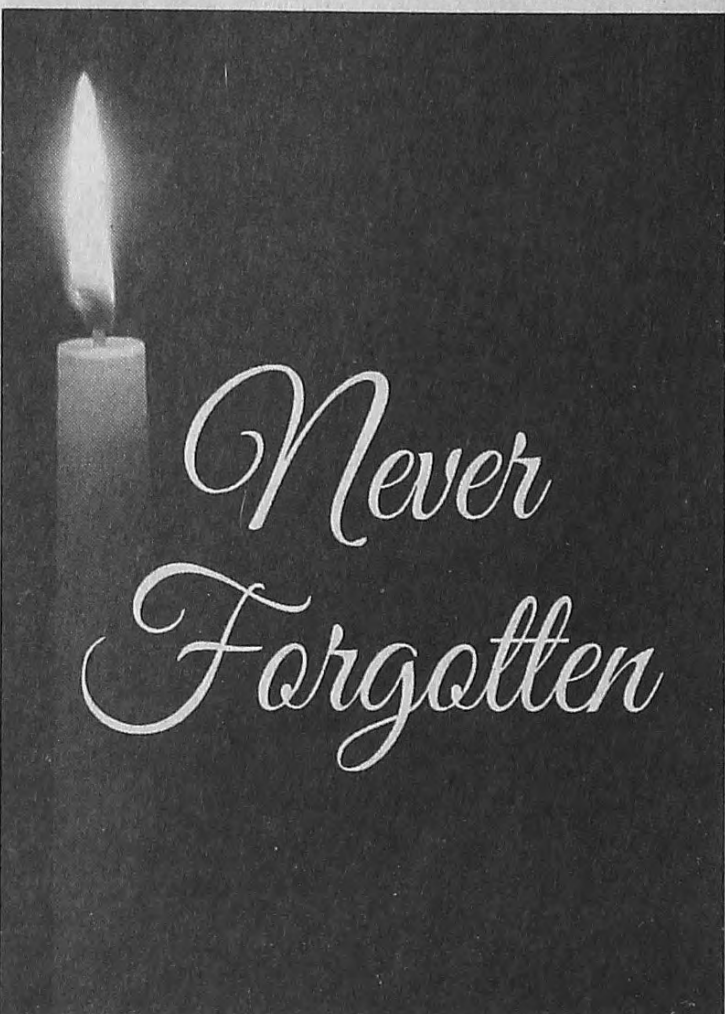
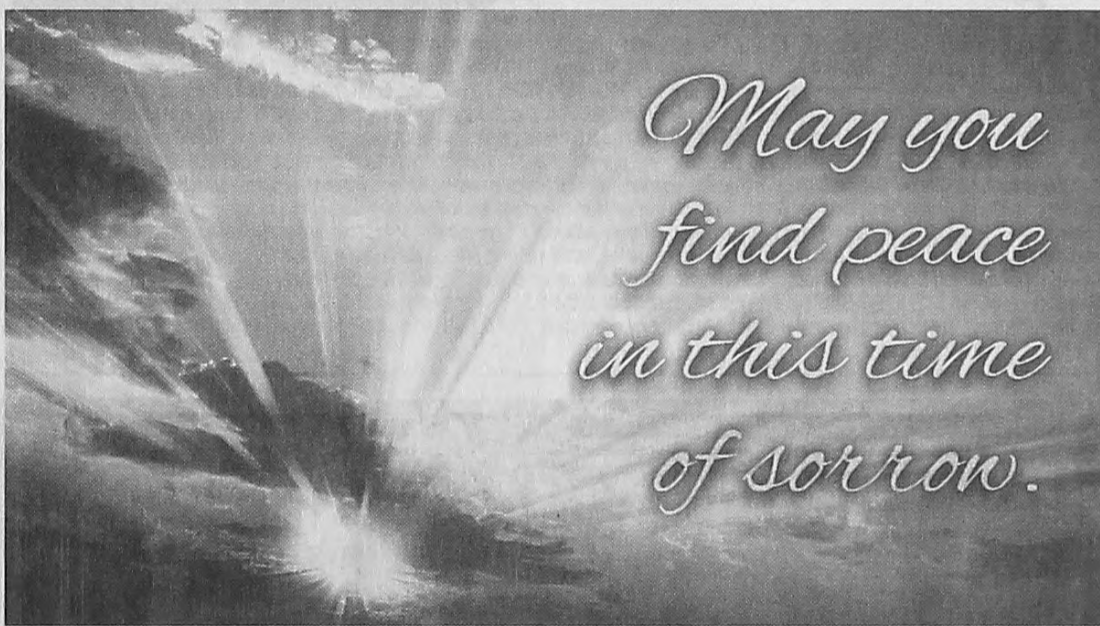


Arthur was born in Northville, Michigan and raised in Plymouth. He graduated from High School in 1972 and in 1979, he graduated from Eastern Michigan University where he earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. While attending Eastern, he studied Special Education, was the Captain of the Track team and an awesome Pole Vaulter, setting several Midwest records. After several years of teaching and coaching in Plymouth, he moved to Ludington, Michigan where he was a very successful Teacher, as well as a Swimming and Track Coach at LHS for over 20 years. Go Orioles!! It was Hooker's winning mindset along with his excellent coaching and team preparation skills that made the swim team worthy of a being called a State champion swim team.

Boating and fishing were something that Hooker loved to do. Fishing from a boat allowed him to relax with his favorite beverage and his friends. Waiting for that tug on his line, and that's when the "reel" fun would begin for him. It didn't matter if a fish was caught or not. It was just about being on the boat, plotting the course and getting out into the fresh air and sunshine. Hooker was also an avid gardener of flowers and vegetables; it made his backyard a magnet for all kinds of animals! Relaxation for "Hook" was hand chopping logs for the wood burning stove and enjoying a good fire on a cold day. He loved living up north.

Hooker was the loving and devoted father of Charlie and Sean, father-in-law to Sean's partner, Amanda LaPonsie; proud grandfather of Hazel Wellman and cherished son of Dolores Guenther. He is deeply loved and will be greatly missed by his siblings, Bob (Nola), Alice (Don), Dan (Jennifer), Amy (the late Glenn) and Jack (Pam). He also leaves his nieces and nephews: Jimmy, David, Annie, Richard, Billy, Jeremy, Brendan and Kristofer and also his former wife, Sheri Barber.

For donations to The Alzheimer's Association please visit: [http://act.alz.org/goto/Hooker\\_Wellman](http://act.alz.org/goto/Hooker_Wellman)  
Private services will be held at a future date.





Trains often use the crossing on Main Street east of Plymouth, causing delays.  
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## App

Continued from Page 1A

“The challenge with some of the other crossings is that there isn’t a nearby building to attach a camera, so that’s something they’re working on.”

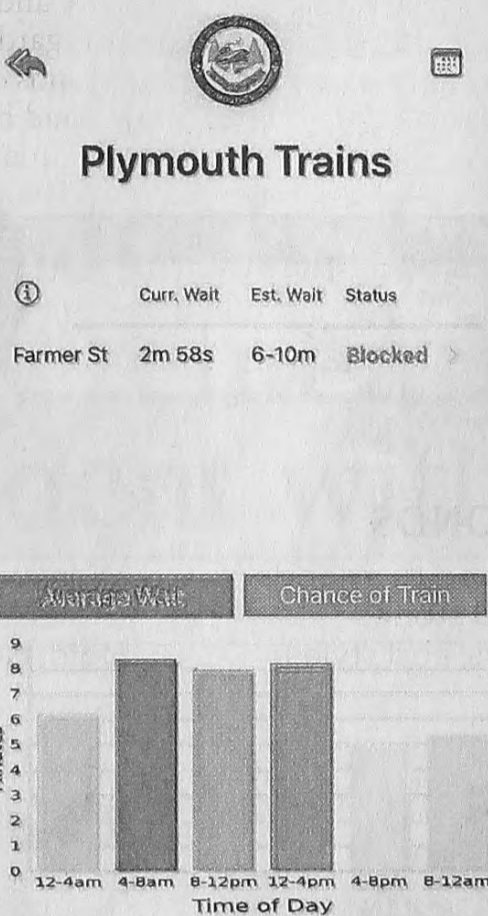
“What’s convenient, though, is that if users of the app see that there is a train crossing at Farmer Street, they know it’s probably blocking Main Street as well because they’re so close to one another.”

The app is equipped with an optional setting that uses the driver’s location and sends a notification when they’re within range of a blocked crossing.

The “chance of train” feature can help users plan their trip by seeing the likelihood of a blocked crossing.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [edwright@hometownlife.com](mailto:edwright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1133.

A screenshot of the Plymouth Trains app, which still being tested. SUBMITTED



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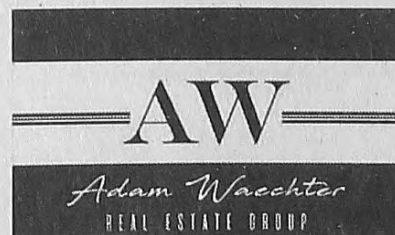


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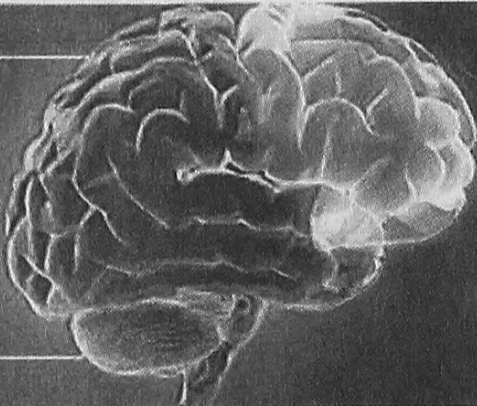
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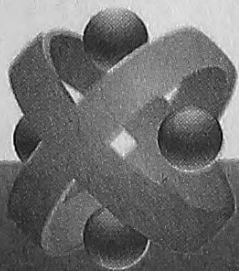
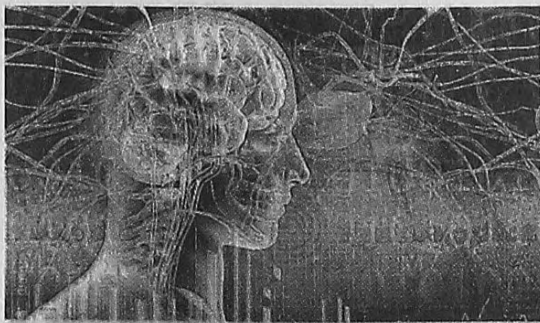


### Randall Benson, MD

Dr. Randall Benson, is a nationally regarded behavioral neurologist and imaging neuroscientist. Dr. Benson is recognized for developing new, more effective diagnosis for incapacitating brain disorders using advanced functional MRI, DTI & SWI methods. His work has led to an unprecedented understanding of brain function and disease.

#### Among his accomplishments:

- First dual Research Fellow in Behavioral Neurology and MRI at Harvard Medical School.
- Neurology residency at Boston University and the Veterans Administration.
- Principal investigator on US National Institutes of health and Department of Defense projects.
- Testified before the US Congress on a National Football League sponsored study on concussions.



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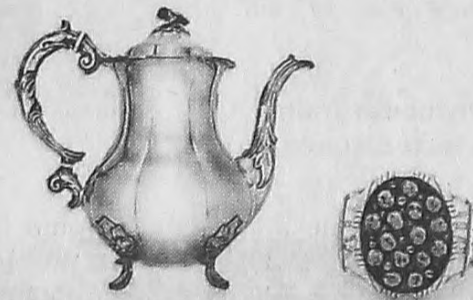
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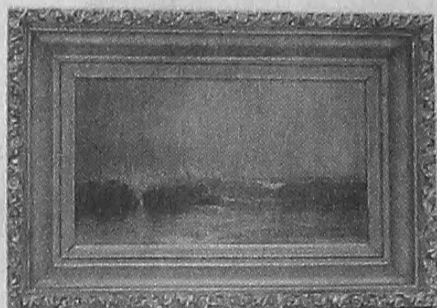
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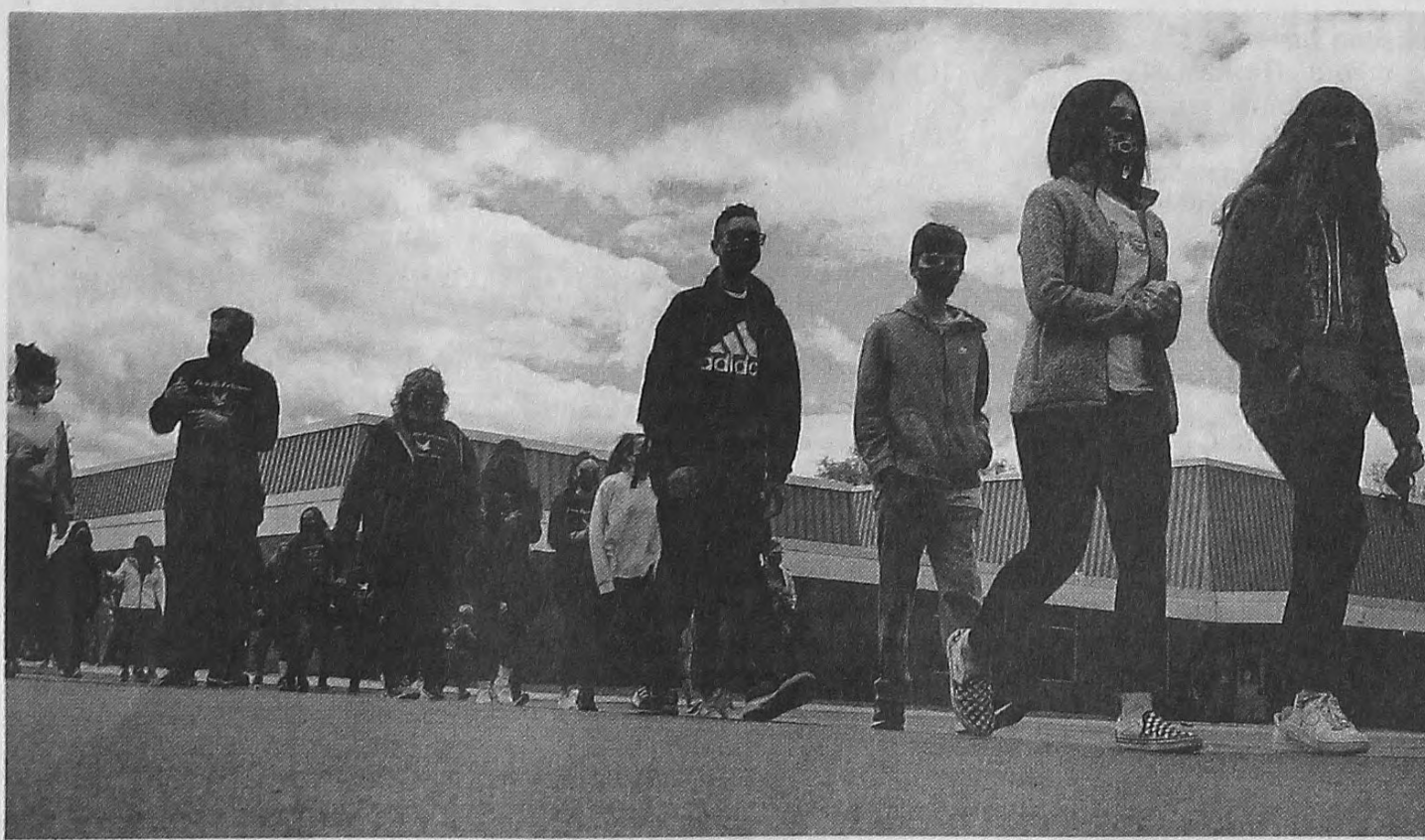
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# SPORTS



Students and staff of Frost Middle School begin their Fast Like Fritz fun run and walk for their friend Josh Fritz on May 11. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Tides turn for Livonia United lacrosse in second season

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com | USA TODAY NETWORK

Livonia United's first lacrosse season did not go well.

In 2019, head coach Andrew Wahl led a small and inexperienced group primarily of freshman and sophomores — not enough to field a JV team — through its first slate as a school-sponsored varsity sport: one filled with running clocks and double-digit losses, winning only once in 15 games.

The team struggled to find any sort of footing its first season. But its backbone of lacrosse players who grew up playing and loving the sport were there to work with.

"I'd ask my friends and they'd be like, 'I don't know if I want to join that team,'" Ethan Waldo, now a senior on Livonia United, remembers. "The guys who had been playing stayed with us all the way up, they were all in all the time."

To Teddy Mazaris, a sophomore on that first team, 2019 was a growing year. Each loss to Howell, Northville and Brighton was an example of an end of the path for Livonia United, where he wanted the team to end up.

"I just remember playing senior-led teams and realizing that's how championship lacrosse is supposed to be played," Mazaris said. "I just remembered thinking, 'I really want to be like those guys when I'm a senior.'"

In 2021, Livonia United seems to be ahead of schedule.

The team — players come from Livonia Franklin, Livonia Stevenson and Livonia Churchill — won eight of its first 10 games, including four double-digit victories.

See LIVONIA, Page 3B

## Colton Kuehl leads Northville lacrosse to revenge win against Plymouth team

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com | USA TODAY NETWORK

The first 11 seconds of Northville lacrosse's match-up against Plymouth were textbook.

Mustangs senior midfielder and face-off specialist Nick Lauderback won the ball, racing down the field to set up a play. He led a Plymouth defender in sliding around him and finding senior Colton Kuehl wide open, swinging his stick down to bounce the ball past Wildcats junior Reid Caswell for the first score of the game.

That first score was one of many for Kuehl, who led Northville (5-2) with five goals to beat Plymouth (4-6), 9-4, on the road.

Kuehl was fired up to face the Wildcats. The last time he saw them, it didn't go the Mustangs' way.

Kuehl was a sophomore on Northville's 2019 team that fell to Plymouth in the regional semifinal on its home field. Now a senior, he had this game circled.

"It's crazy. It was a picture-perfect game, probably the best game I'll have all season," Kuehl said. "Adrenaline was kicking in. It was a big game."

For Northville, offense came in bunches against Plymouth.

Trailing 2-1 halfway through the second quarter, senior Nick Salamone tied the game with a goal assisted by Luke Tardich. Nineteen seconds later, Kuehl answered with his second of the day, taking another pass from Lauderback for the score.

Tardich and senior Dylan Hicks each added goals to take a 5-2 halftime lead, utilizing an advantage on offense that not many teams have: starting all seniors at attack.

See NORTHVILLE, Page 4B

## Racing for Josh: Frost community remembers former student with a run

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com | USA TODAY NETWORK

Josh Fritz had a smile for everybody at Frost Middle School. But he would also leave them in the dust.

When the weather was nice outside, former Frost principal Anthony Abbate would lead a group of students out to the front of the school after lunch to hang out in the sun. Groups of students would start to race each other, including Fritz, an eighth grader at the time.

"You wouldn't have known it necessarily by looking at him, but he was fast and strong," Abbate said. "And he knew it. He would just challenge people and they would be like, 'Sure, I'll race you.' He would blow past them."

The principal even tried, not taking it seriously at first — running backwards at the starting line — but, sure enough, Fritz would be well past him, never giving Abbate a chance.

One year after Fritz's death — collapsing in the middle of gym class and dying the next morning from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy — this is how the Frost Middle School community wanted to honor its former student: running and raising money for student heart checks at Beaumont Health with a fun run.

"Today, we remember and celebrate Josh the way he deserves to be remembered and celebrated: as the goofball that used to fool around with his friends at lunch, as the athlete that used to crush everybody in foot races in front of the cafeteria back and forth every day, as the good friend with the smile as bright as the sunshine," Abbate, now the director of personnel and district services for Livonia Public Schools, told its participants.

"Today we celebrate. Today we make new memories, and we do that for Josh."

### A story to tell

Josh Fritz had a story to tell. And it's a story the Frost Middle School community remembers to this day.

He was adopted from Guatemala in 2006 and brought to Michigan with his parents Susan and Mark in 2007. Before leaving the embassy, his mother remembers being told that Josh would need to have open-heart surgery, something he completed at age 4. After that point, he was checked annually and nothing was ever detected.

Josh's heart was not keeping him from organized sports; it was his attention.

Susan Fritz said he had ADHD, never being able to participate on any team. But he still loved football, baseball, golf and running; never being able to sit



Chris Vecchioni walks with his son Luke at the Fast Like Fritz fun run on May 11.



Susan Fritz talks about her son Fritz during his memorial fundraiser at Livonia's Frost Middle.

still. But it was the way Josh interacted with others that set him apart, being remembered as fun, sweet and sensitive to those around him.

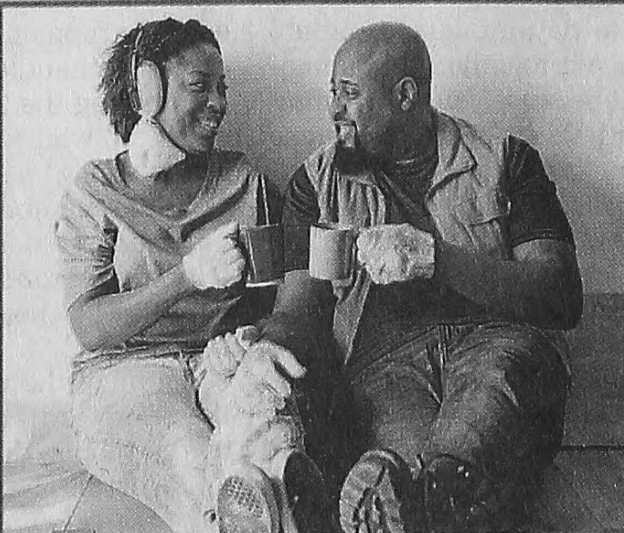
"I would go to school with him and then go on a school trip, and here's my kid: everybody's like 'Hey Josh, hey Josh,'" Susan Fritz said. "I was just so tickled by it because he was different and he did look dif-

See FRITZ, Page 2B

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# Hartland's Lockwood puts on state-record performance in win

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Bo Lockwood's incredible junior lacrosse season for Hartland has now landed him in the state record book.

Lockwood broke or tied three state records Monday in the Eagles' 28-0 rout of Howell.

Lockwood set a single-game assist record with 13, already has the single-season assist record with 97 and tied a single-game points record with 19.

Drake Ringer of Tecumseh set the previous mark for assists in a game with 11 against Temperance Bedford on May 14, 2018.

Tanyr Krummenacher of Saline set the old single-season assist record of 96 in 2018. Lockwood has eclipsed that record in only 15 games. The Eagles still have three regular-season games and the state tournament remaining.

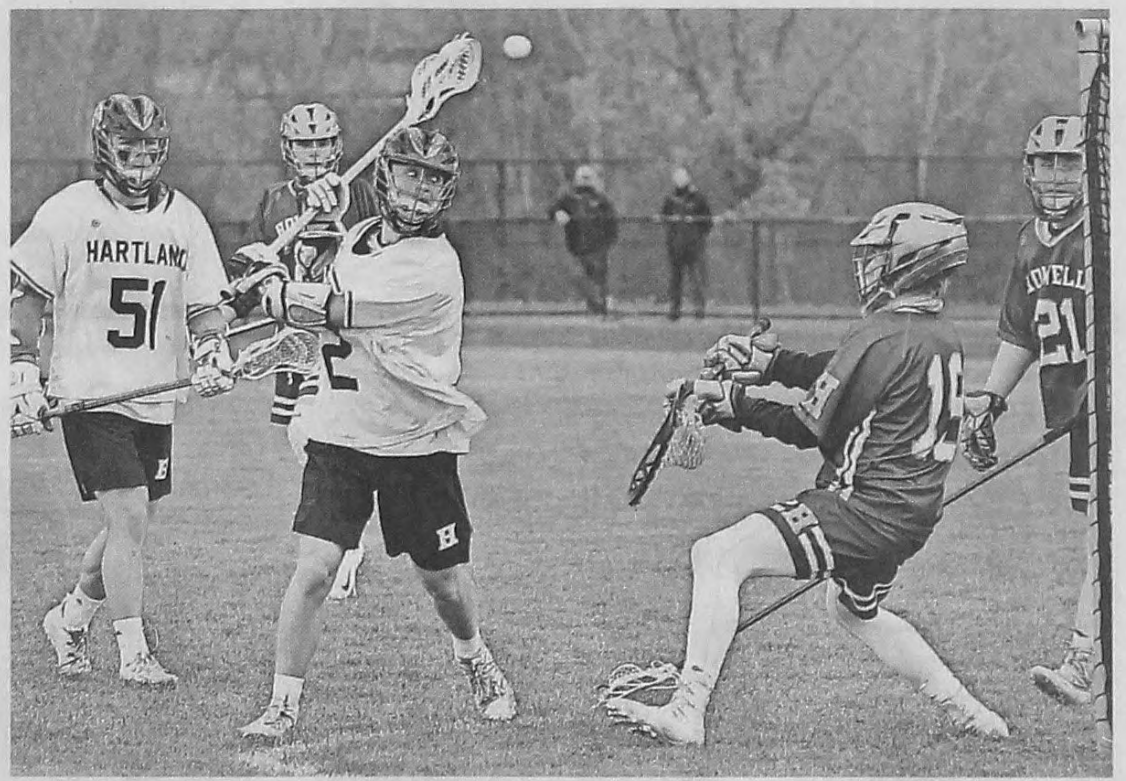
Lockwood tied the single-game

points record set by Cole Smith of East Lansing against Swartz Creek on April 18, 2016.

Lockwood could soon have the single-season scoring record. He has 67 goals and 97 assists for 164 points, ranking fourth on the list compiled by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The record of 180 points was set by Holt's Tommy McKee in 2010.

Also having big games were Noah Luck with seven goals and four assists; Charlie Anderson with five goals; and Reagan Pashby with a perfect 18-for-18 night on faceoffs.

Hartland led 23-0 at halftime. The Eagles' next two games will be considerably more challenging, as they visit Brighton (12-1) at 7 p.m. Wednesday and East Grand Rapids (12-1) at 2:30 p.m. Saturday. They will conclude the regular season with a KLAAs crossover Monday, a game that will be for the association championship if they beat Brighton.



Hartland's Bo Lockwood had six goals and 13 assists in a 28-0 victory over Howell on Monday. He broke or tied three state records.

COURTESY OF DAN ZEPPA

At 14-1, the Eagles have won 12 straight games since a 17-8 loss to Birmingham Brother Rice on April 10. They have five shutouts. Howell is 3-6.  
**Brighton 11, FH Northern 6**

John Aurandt scored six goals for Brighton, while Matt Cople made eight saves.

Contact Bill Khan at [wkhan@gannett.com](mailto:wkhan@gannett.com).

# Possession offense gives Novi soccer advantage against Canton

Colin Gay HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After two shutout losses to Salem and Hartland to end last week, Novi head coach Todd Pheiffer wanted to simplify his team's approach.

It was not that they were playing poorly in the middle third or even defensively — despite allowing eight goals in the past two games. The Wildcats were just allowing too many chances to opposing offenses.

In practices leading up to its game against Canton, Novi worked on possession offense: using one- and two-touch drills to instill the quick possession style, to keep momentum on their side of the field.

This approach worked for the Wildcats (6-4-3) against the Chiefs (3-5-3), earning the 2-1 win, while recording nine shots on goal and six corner kicks.

"We just worked on playing simpler," Pheiffer said. "Sometimes players feel that they have to put it on themselves to try and kind of take over and help their team. We just talked about how we have to play simpler: keep the ball longer."

Pheiffer wanted his soccer team to look more cohesive than it has been in the past few games, using teamwork and trust to put players in their proper positions to be successful. Against Canton, Samantha Maday was on the finishing end of each of those plays.

The Novi junior scored each of the team's two goals: giving the Wildcats a first-half lead after taking a pass in the middle of the field and shooting across her body to find the back of the net, then taking a rebound off a deflection from Canton senior goalkeeper Lauren Kuba for the go-ahead score with 14 minutes left.

"Everyone kind of did their part. I was just the finisher of those goals," Maday said. "Everyone had a part to play, everyone got the ball in and we were able to finish them."

Canton has been struggling to finish games all season.



Novi Wildcat Grace Dziedzic is introduced. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Despite a goal differential of plus-four, the Chiefs have won only three of their 11 games all season, losing all but one of their five games by a one-goal deficit.

To Canton head coach Jeannine Reddy, it's all about the offensive attack. The Chiefs recorded seven shots on goal, but were able to only finish one against Novi: a penalty kick by Morgan Kroon.

"We know going into every game that you are going to have to battle for every ball," Reddy said. "That's the thing we struggle with is finishing. We do a really

good job of winning the ball, getting it in positions, but we can't seem to get it in the back of the net.

"That's kind of our thing. We seem to do other things pretty well, but the only thing that counts is scoring."

For Pheiffer, Novi's response to the penalty kick goal was huge. Instead of cowering, the Wildcats continued to attack, he said, continuing with the game plan of playing connected soccer, crediting his two freshmen forwards Lindsay Dahlinger and Michella Tortelli, along with the center and midbacks for keeping the ball moving.

With four games to go until the state tournament, this is the offense Novi wants to see. Frankly, the Wildcats want to see more goals go in the back of the net. But it's a good starting point.

"It was nice to see that everything we had worked on in practice, we were able to put together against a very good team," Pheiffer said.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).

# Fritz

Continued from Page 1B

ferent from his parents. I was just so proud of his resilience, his confidence."

While preparing for the event to honor their former classmate, Sherri Brown, Josh's former counselor, would go from classroom to classroom, asking students. "Who remembered Josh?"

"And all these hands would go up," Brown said. "Every face had a smile."

## A lasting impact

Josh Fritz was always competing, up until the point he couldn't anymore.

On Feb. 21, 2020, the Frost Middle School eighth grader was in gym class, doing pull-ups, "showing off for the girls" his mother said. Fritz collapsed, was picked up by a member of Frost's security team — a former fireman and EMT — and taken to the hospital.

He was pronounced dead the next morning at age 14.

"It was totally unexpected," Abbate said. "It was one of those things that, as a principal, you don't even want to even think about the possibility of that hap-



Brown

pening." The Frost Middle School staff came together and, through grief, came up with a way to honor its former student. But the plan was denied, falling victim to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic when schools closed.

The Fritz family, having just lost its only son, continued to rely on family and friends around them, not having much choice than to grieve head on.

"A chunk of you is gone. A chunk of your heart's gone," Susan Fritz said. "You just dig deep and continue to work, talk, rely on family."

"It's a day-to-day, minute-to-minute struggle to keep it together. And sometimes we don't because you know what, I can't always hold it together because he's too big, too important."

As schools reopened in the first half of 2021, Brown made sure that Josh Fritz would be honored, reaching out to both Mark and Susan to see if they would take part in the festivities.

With the fun run, Susan Fritz said she wanted to raise money to help other families through similar situations that she and her husband went through, giv-



Josh Fritz's former middle school principal Anthony Abbate talks about the young man during a memorial fundraiser. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ing the proceeds for student heart checks at Beaumont hospitals.

Susan Fritz saw Josh's whole story: even the moments when he was not the easiest to handle — laughing when remembering the times she yelled at her only son, who responded the only way he knew how: a smile and a dance.

But as members of the Frost community honored Josh Fritz, his mom just felt proud: proud of the impact her son made in his nearly three years at the school.

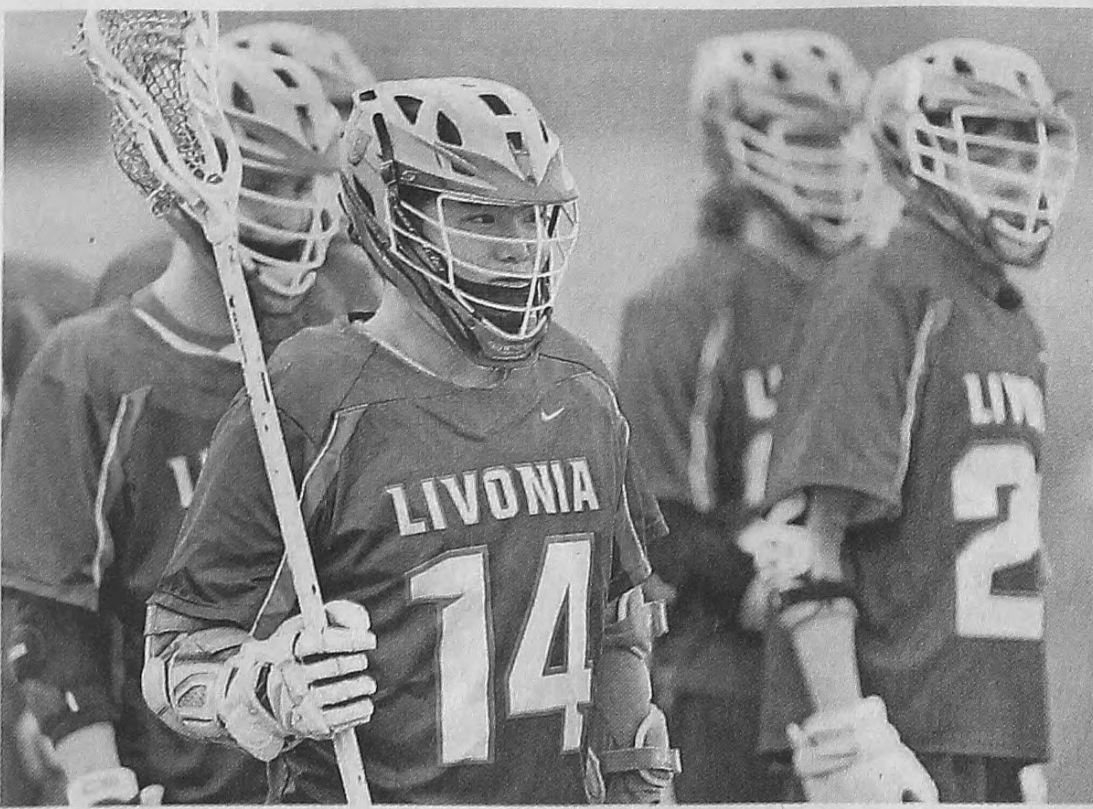
Through the money raised, through the courtyard deemed "Josh's Corner" by the school, through the memories of an infectious smile and a "rock star"

personality, through the races he won outside in front of the lunch room, she knows his impact will always be remembered.

"The kid was happy," Susan Fritz said. "And I know that has a lot to do with us, but I still think he was super special."

"He was supposed to come here. He was supposed to come to me. I don't know why he got (taken). That, I'll never understand."

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The Livonia United team on May 3.

# Livonia

Continued from Page 1B

Eleven of Wahl's 20 varsity players in 2021 were holdovers from the program's inaugural 2019 season. It was a group not used to showing confidence, not used to having a swagger going into games.

Livonia United had to learn how to win.

"The goalposts have moved, per se," Wahl said. "It's not just that we want to compete now. When we play bad teams, we need to take care of business, work on our stuff, knowing we should be able to take care of that. The first year was just 'Let's go out there and try not to be embarrassed every time we suit up.'

"We already found success we thought was years out."

Winning is something Alec Rodopoulos wasn't accustomed to, starting his lacrosse career in Livonia 10 years ago. And it wasn't something he saw coming in 2021.

His team lost its chance at an immediate follow-up after its debut season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, not seeing much of a chance at development and improvement for the second year.

"You think you go 1-14 and lose a sea-

son, there's not much hope there," Rodopoulos said.

Instead, the energy shifted immediately.

Livonia United opened the 2021 season with a five-goal win against Walled Lake Western — a team it had lost to by four in its first game of 2019 — followed up by a 22-goal drubbing of Ypsilanti Lincoln.

In the first 10 games, the success has come down to Livonia United's two goalkeepers: Rodopoulos and junior Connor Reed.

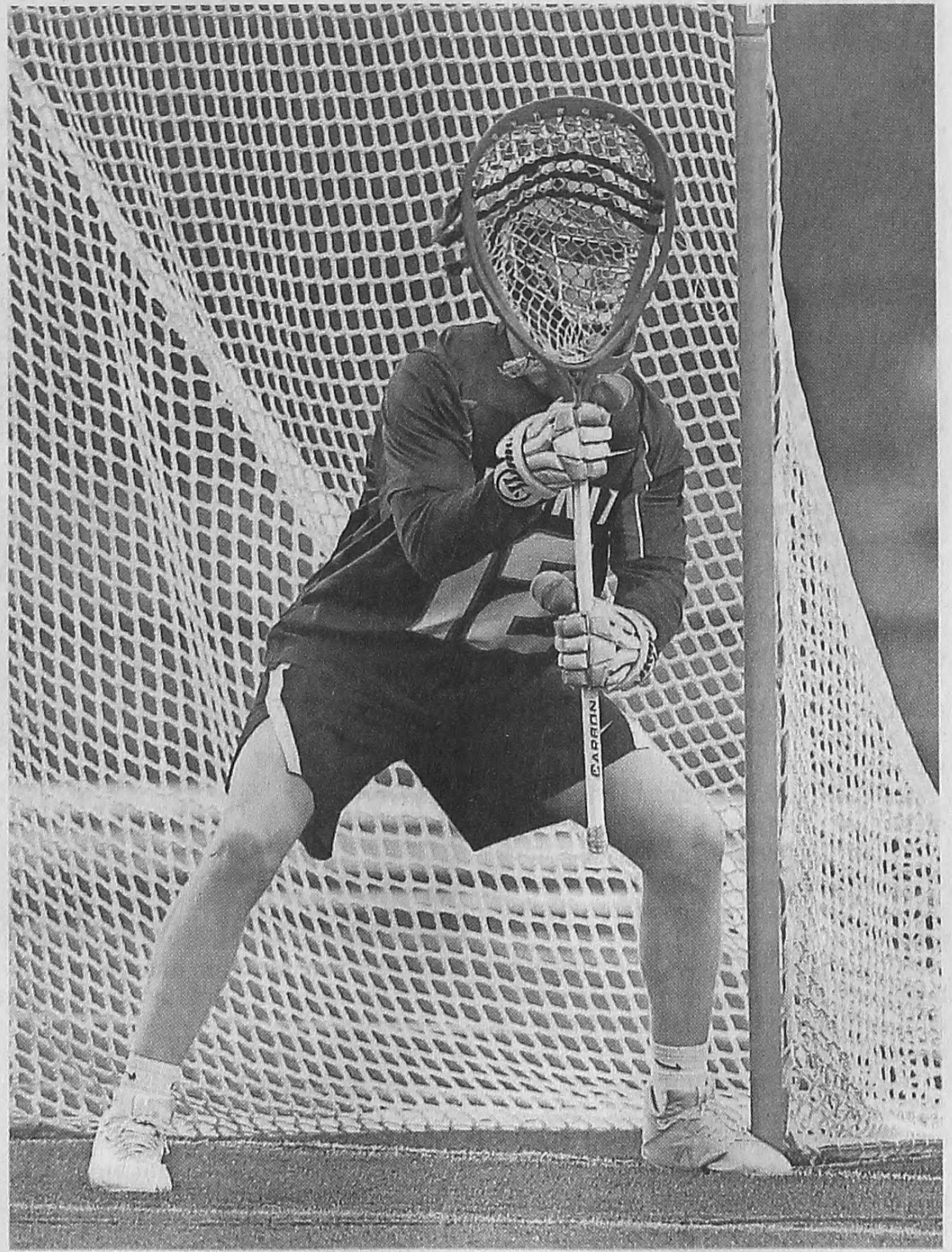
The pair has allowed 16 goals this season in the team's eight wins, including shutouts against Lincoln, Novi and North Farmington.

Rodopoulos said there is a level of pressure associated with his and the defense's performance. It's a pressure he enjoys.

"We love putting the team on our back," he said.

Since May 1, the Livonia United offense has stepped up, lessening the load of the defense. Waldo and junior Nathan Redding have helped lead the team to score 45 goals in its past three games.

But there has not been that complete turnaround yet. Glimmers of the 2019 season have still come up in 2021, none more clear than in the team's 19-1 loss to Hartland April 28.



Netminder Connor Reed watches the action near his goal.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

But Livonia United has confidence on its side, and has goals in sight.

Players now believe Livonia United can win the KLAA sooner rather than later. They believe a playoff win is within reach and possibly a run at a regional title.

To Waldo, that's not what Livonia United's opponents see. That in itself, he said, is the challenge the program will carry on even when his senior season is complete.

"We still have a ways to go before our

team is known and we have credibility out there," Waldo said. "Eventually, I think we can get to that point, but I think everyone still underestimates us a little bit. They are not giving us the fact that we are beating some of these teams by pretty big numbers.

"We're not the same team we were."

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# Northville

Continued from Page 1B

“That experience, you can’t put a number on it,” Northville head coach Shaun Dicken said.

The experience continued to show at the start of the second half, as Kuehl put his third ball in the back of the net 87 seconds into the third quarter off a pass from Tardich, ending the third quarter with a buzzer-beating bomb that secured a four-goal lead heading into the final 12 minutes.

Adding another in the fourth quarter, along with a score by Tardich, who finished the game with two goals and three assists, Kuehl said this game against Plymouth meant a lot to those returning from the 2019 team.

“Especially after last year, not being able to play with these guys, not being able to play with the seniors last year — and this is the last year as seniors — we want to come out and play and put on a show,” he said.

Dicken’s team has not been able to show that much so far in 2021.

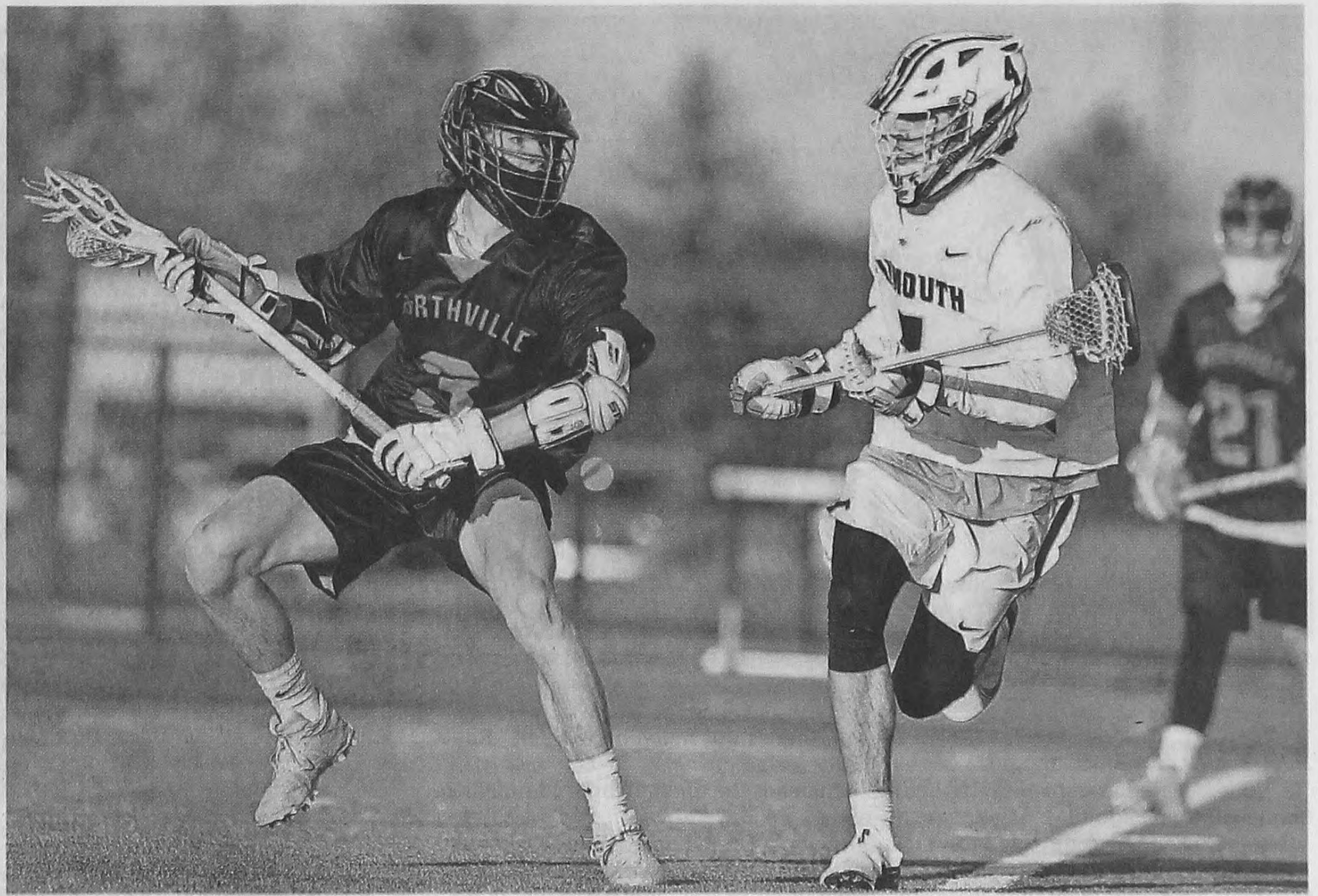
Northville missed its first four games of the season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and has only seven games played.

“We had a slow start to the season to begin with. It’s only our seventh game, while other teams have played quite a few more,” Dicken said. “It’s been taking us awhile to get going at times, but once these guys all get on the same page, we can put it in the back of the net for sure.”

John Abruzzo could relate, watching his players lose the turnover battle and make unforced errors against the Mustangs.

The Plymouth head coach said he had a “stacked” 2020 class that had its season lost due to the pandemic. Now, in 2021, his job is to teach a younger roster how to play tough, aggressive lacrosse.

“It’s been a bit of a learning curve, but we have definitely stepped up and have one of the hardest schedules in the state,” Abruzzo said. “I think tonight was one of those big, gritty, tough performances. We didn’t come out on the



Northville senior Colton Kuehl scored five of the Mustangs' nine goals against Plymouth.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL VASILNEK | SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

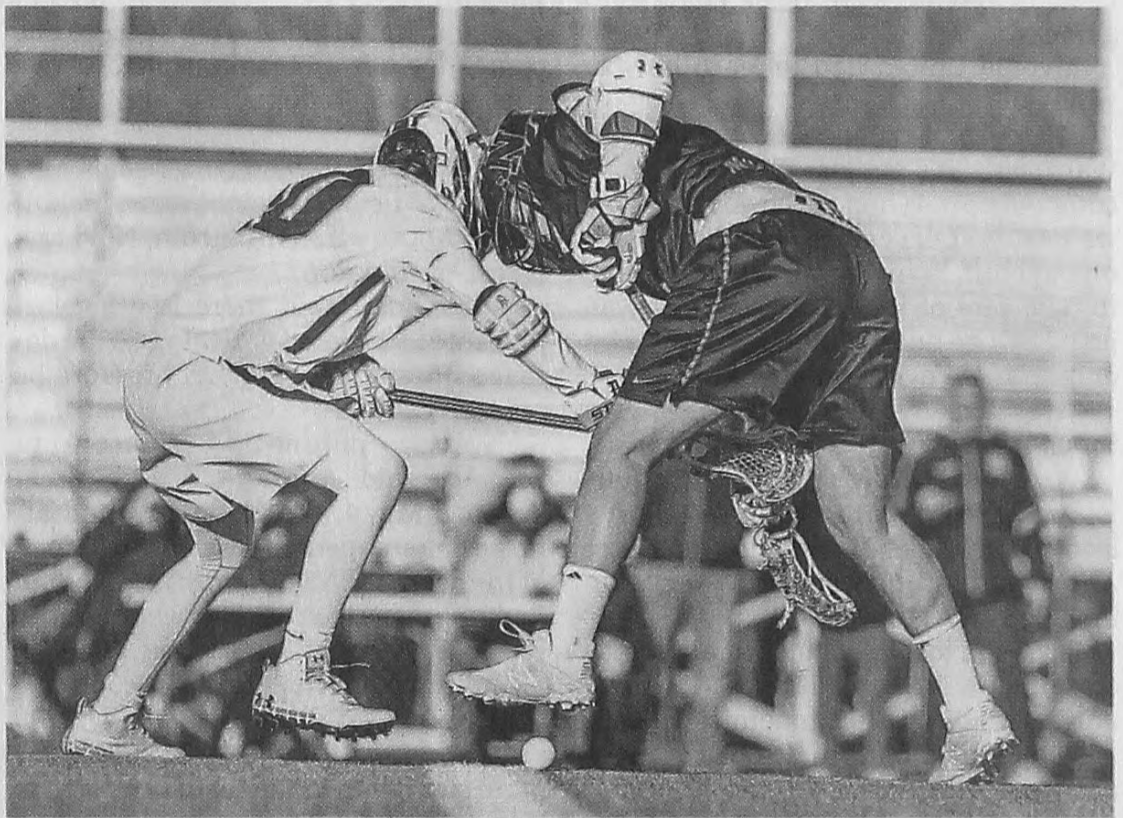
winning side, but that’s all right. That’s a game we can learn with and build from.”

Plymouth senior David Brace led the Wildcats with two goals and an assist, while Ben Wetzler and Nick Gurchak each added scores.

Without the experience on the field yet, Dicken is not entirely sure what he will be working with come playoff time.

“We’re still just getting better every day,” he said. “We don’t really know where the ceiling quite is. We’re just going to come out to every game and try to get better every day.”

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).



Northville senior Nick Lauderback wins the first face off of the game, leading to the Mustangs' first score 11 seconds later.

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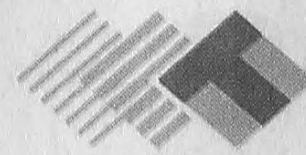


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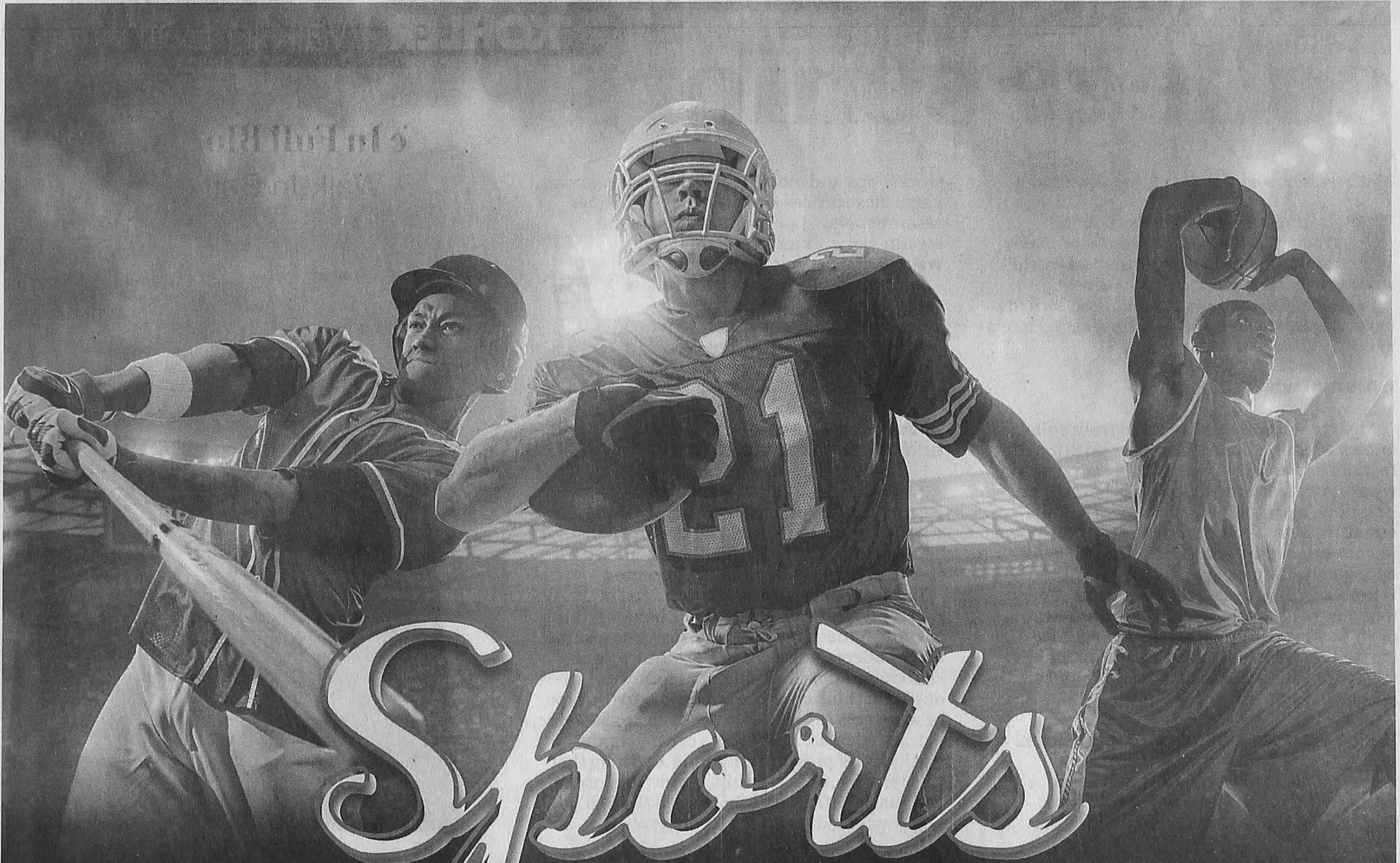
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Updated Date: Budget Hearing Notice, Sigma Academy for Leadership & Early Middle College will be holding its annual budget hearing on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at 8:30 A.M. The meeting will be on ZOOM. The budget is available for public inspection at [www.sigmaldecm.org](http://www.sigmaldecm.org). That and access codes will be posted to the website 2 days prior to the meeting. The meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

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## 3 search tips for graduating college seniors

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In your last weeks as a student, you actually have a leg up on many other job seekers. Here's why:

### 1. Alumni want to help

Anyone who's ever graduated from college knows what it's like to be in your position. In fact, no one knows it better than the people who graduated from your school before you. And now, many of them run or work at successful businesses. Alumni are generally open to speaking with students, sharing their wisdom and helping where they can.

Research past graduates who are at companies you're interested in or perform the type of work you're looking to pursue. Then reach out and request a 15-minute informational interview call to ask some questions and get to know them.

### 2. Use your school's career resources

Most schools have career centers that help connect students to job fairs, networking events, mock interviews, resume-writing

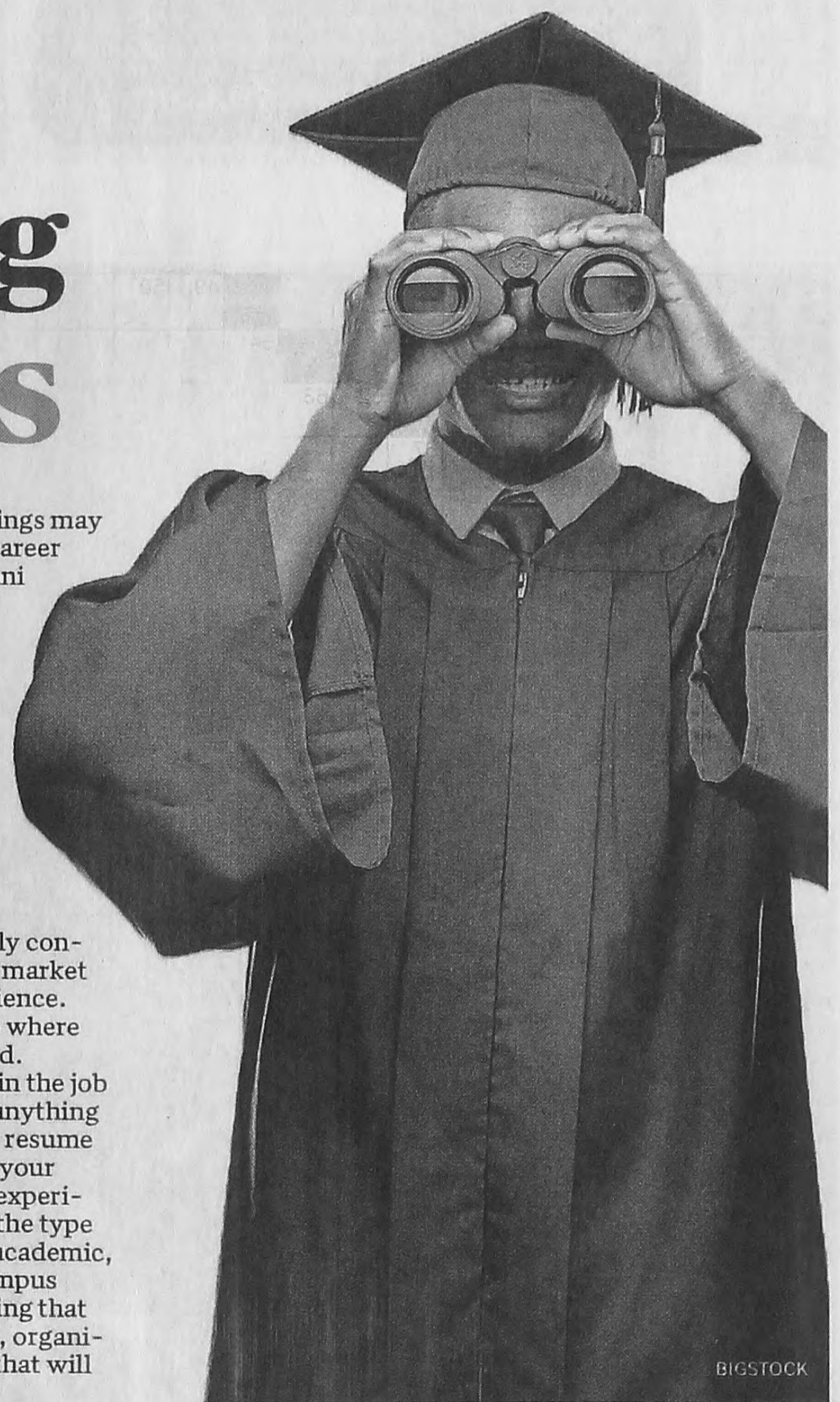
workshops and more. While the offerings may vary, these offices are direct lines to career resources and opportunities like alumni events, networking groups and other ways to stay in touch with alumni.

Sign up for their email lists, follow them on social media and offer to volunteer with them. Doing so will connect you with other engaged alumni and help you network with them organically.

### 3. You don't have experience, and no one expects you to

Many college graduates are rightfully concerned that they are headed into a job market without much real-world work experience. This is one of the few situations in life where this isn't only acceptable, it's expected.

Just because you are inexperienced in the job market doesn't mean you don't have anything to offer. Whether you're sharing your resume with someone or creating a profile on your school's alumni website, include any experience you think could be applicable to the type of work you're looking to do, such as academic, extracurricular, internships or on-campus work-study programs. Include anything that illustrates your leadership, teamwork, organizational abilities and other soft skills that will help you stand out in the job market.



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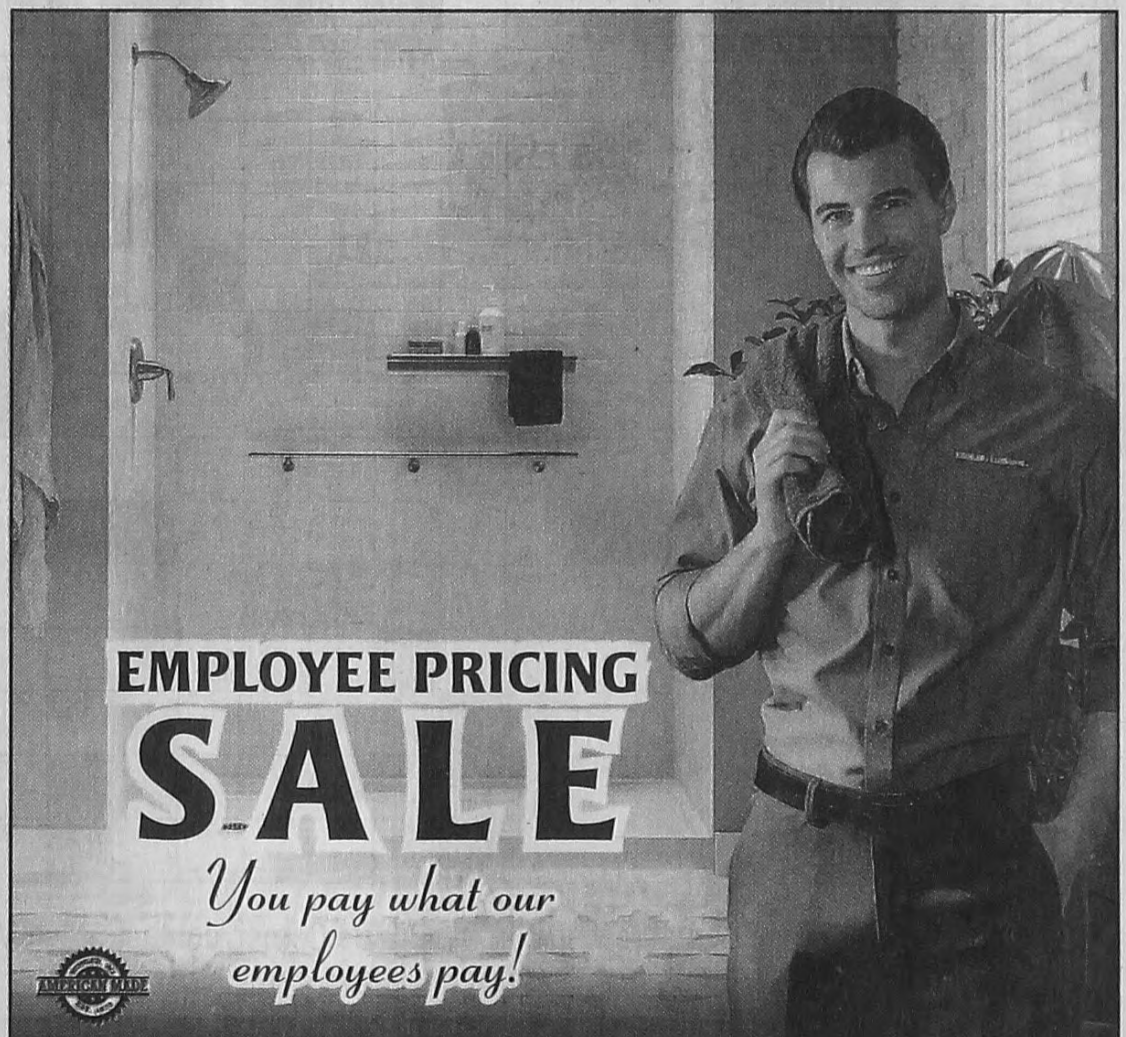
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**KOHLER. LuxStone**

Work with your New Bath Today Guru to design your KOHLER® LuxStone™ Walk-In system. Your Guru makes designing your dream shower or bath easy. They will help you create a space suited to your needs—with exquisite features all bearing the Kohler name—and install it hassle-free.

**Walk-In System Guru**

**\$500 off** LuxStone Walls **plus 24 mos.** 0% FINANCING FOR  
**313-241-9145**

**NEW BATH TODAY**

\*Cannot be combined with any other offer. Previous sales excluded. Good at initial presentation only. Free NBT Pivot door with shower purchase only. Door installed in shower only. Financing available for qualified buyers only.

\*Discount is applied to the regular price of select styles of Carpet, Hardwood, Vinyl Plank, and Laminate, basic installation, standard padding, and materials. Excludes upgrades, stairs, take-up of permanently affixed flooring, non-standard furniture moving, other miscellaneous charges, and prior purchases. Product may not be sold separately from installation. Residential installations only. Not available in all areas. Valid through 06/06/21. Subject to change. Details at EmpireToday.com. Sales (except CA and MA) and installation are provided by independent contractors. Licensure at EmpireToday.com. CSLB 1047108 © 2021 Empire Today, LLC